

صباحنا من الامل

Thursday November 14 1996

Algeria D 8.50	Greece D 4.00	Norway NK 10
Albania L 2.00	Hong Kong HK 25	Oman O 1.00
Andorra A 1.00	India IN 15	Pakistan P 5.00
Argentina AS 3.00	Indonesia ID 15	Peru PE 1.00
Australia AU 1.00	Iran IR 15	Portugal P 2.50
Austria A 1.00	Italy I 3.00	Romania R 2.00
Belgium B 1.00	Japan J 1.00	Russia RS 2.00
Canada C 1.00	Kenya K 1.00	Saudi Arabia S 1.00
Chad CH 1.00	South Korea SK 1.00	Senegal S 1.00
Czech Republic CZ 1.00	Sri Lanka L 1.00	Sierra Leone SL 1.00
Denmark DK 1.00	Taiwan TW 1.00	Slovakia SK 1.00
Egypt EG 1.00	Thailand TH 1.00	Slovenia S 1.00
France F 1.00	Turkey T 1.00	Spain S 1.00
Germany G 1.00	USA US 1.00	Sweden SE 1.00

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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Where did it all go right?

## Feeling good about Britain

G2 with European weather



Mark Lawson joins the social drinkers

## This one's on me

Second thoughts, G2 page 7



OnLine

## Are mobile phones making us ill?

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### Clinton agrees to send US troops into Zaire as part of multi-national force

# Mission to save million lives

### Britain to join relief operation 'if plan can be worked out'

Martin Walker in Washington, Ian Black in London and John Palmer in Brussels

**P**RESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday agreed, under intense international pressure, to send United States troops to Zaire as part of a multinational force under overall Canadian command, with neither its precise objectives nor rules of engagement clearly defined.

Britain followed suit by saying it was ready to contribute "constructively" to the international effort, "providing a satisfactory plan can be worked out" for dealing with an unprecedented humanitarian relief mission to more than a million refugees caught up in fighting by Tutsi rebels in Zaire.

If crucial issues can be resolved at a meeting of potential contributors at the United Nations in New York today, thousands of troops from North America, Europe and various African countries could be heading for the Great Lakes region of central Africa by the end of this week.

As the standby orders went out last night from the Pentagon — which is to send 3,000 troops, one-third into Zaire and the rest in logistical and support roles — commanders were still uncertain how far their help would extend. The defence department said the mission would not exceed four months.

The defence secretary, William Perry, said: "Our mission will be to secure Goma airport (in eastern Zaire), and then open and secure a land corridor to the main refugee area, to bring food and medical relief to this terrible humanitarian tragedy."

The White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, insisted yesterday: "The mission is

not to disarm militants, nor to conduct any forced entry into the area, nor to police refugee camps."

But commanders wondered whether the mission would have to extend to imposing a local ceasefire and establishing and policing a humanitarian zone.

Crucially, no exit strategy has yet been agreed, nor some basic aims of the mission: whether the troops will shepherd refugees back into Rwanda, or deeper into Zaire.

US ambivalence about the UN and multinational operations means Mr Clinton's decision carries huge political risks. It could end the post-election honeymoon with the Republican Congress. Haunted by memories of the humanitarian mission to Somalia, which veered out of control in his first months in office, Mr Clinton was talked into supporting the mission by Canada's prime minister, Jean Chrétien.

After a long night of negotiations in the Pentagon, General Maurice Barril, the commander of Canadian ground forces, secured a rare agreement by Washington early yesterday to put its forces under Canadian operational command. They will remain under US tactical command.

But the US insisted on "robust" rules of engagement. They will be allowed not only to defend themselves, but to patrol aggressively to ensure they are not attacked.

The fast deterioration of conditions in Zaire has led to chaotic military planning, with European sources insisting their operations would come under the organisational umbrella of the Western European Union, and British sources denying it.

The logistical challenge of flying in troops and equipment, and food and medicine for a million refugees, into an area with few roads and dilapidated airfields — where chol-



A woman struggles to be pulled from the crowd as hundreds of hungry people storm the main food aid depot in Goma, eastern Zaire, yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GLUTENFELDER

era via with AIDS as a health hazard for the troops — "will make Somalia look like a tea party", one Pentagon officer told the Guardian yesterday. "We are looking at literally hundreds of C-6 aircraft," he added, referring to the biggest US military cargo plane.

Every second counts, it is no longer a question of whether to have a force but when. Emma Bonino, the European Union's humanitarian aid commissioner, told the European Parliament yesterday: "If it arrives in three weeks, it will have a lot of

work burying corpses, but not much else." Rwanda's president warned yesterday that Zairean rebels must be consulted. "In order for this operation to work they must secure the airports of Uvira, Bukavu and Goma (in eastern Zaire)," President Pasteur Bizimungu said in Kigali. "If they do not negotiate this with the rebels then they will be declaring war and it will be messy."

The mission is to have a tripartite system of organisation. There will be a north American contingent of some

1,500 Canadian troops and two US logistics and communications battalions, with US paratroops as a protective force.

The European contingent will include French and Spanish troops. France is making available its bases in west and central Africa. The Western European Union, still embryonic as the eventual European pillar of Nato, will undergo its first big test when officials meet in Belgium on Monday to co-ordinate.

Germany said it would not send troops, but the Nether-

lands and Belgium are expected to provide at least logistical backing. European countries are expected to foot the bulk of the bill and provide equipment and training for the African contingent, whose participation is seen as politically essential.

The main local contingent will come from South Africa, but at least token units are expected from Mali, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Senegal, Eritrea and the Congolese republic. Britain was yesterday sounding out Kenya and Uganda over basing support.

The UN Security Council was planning a special session last night to give a formal mandate to the effort, not as a Nato mission, but as an unprecedented "multinational force under Canadian command".

US officials told the Guardian they expected their part of

the mission to be "very limited in time, to establish the conditions in which the African countries will be able to take over on the ground and create the space for a longer-term political settlement".

Britain to pitch in, page 7

## Al Fayed forces Howard's hand

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

**H**ARRODS' owner Mohamed Al Fayed last night pledged not to rest until he had discovered what lay behind the Government's refusal to grant British passports to him and his brother, Ali.

Mr Al Fayed, who was born in Egypt and has lived in Britain for more than 30 years, won an important victory yesterday when the Court of Appeal said the brothers had not been treated fairly and quashed the decision by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to refuse British citizenship to the two brothers.

"If Mr Howard persists, I will pursue the matter until we have obtained our passports. I will not rest until the truth is known," said Mr Al Fayed. "I want to know why Mr Howard intervened personally and more than once in our naturalisation applications."

The Appeal Court ruling is highly charged politically as



Mr Al Fayed has been a key figure in disclosing the "cash-for-questions" scandal.

He claimed the Home Secretary was prejudiced against him because of family ties with Harold Landy, a close business associate of "Tiny" Rowland, the former Lorch chief executive, with whom he fought a bitter takeover battle for the House of Fraser group.

The Harrods' owner said he

had lived in Britain "blamelessly for 30 years without incurring so much as a parking ticket".

He said he employed 6,000 people and paid £3 million income tax every year. "This is basically a great day for me because justice has been done. I have had a very bad deal and have not been treated fairly."

Three High Court judges, headed by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, in a two-to-one majority decision, ruled that the Al Fayed brothers had been treated unfairly; they should have been told what evidence there was against them before a final decision was made to refuse them British passports.

Mr Howard will now have to reconsider their cases if the Appeal Court decision is upheld by the Lords. The Home Secretary will also have to tell the Al Fayed brothers what evidence counted against them and give them the chance to comment before a final decision is made.

The three judges were told that in the absence of any off-



Mohamed Al Fayed... aims to expose 'prejudice'

## Embellishments of an illuminary nature put Christmas in the shade

Kanzal Ahmed

**T**HE lights on the horticultural festive element will be switched on in two weeks' time. The festive embellishments of an illuminary nature will follow soon after.

Northampton borough council could be accused of being pedantic. But its efforts to satisfy all faiths at Christmas have brought an award for festive gobbledeegook from the Plain English Campaign.

In a report to councillors, Steve Friddis, the council's town centre manager, described the wonders that would greet shoppers. The "horticultural festive element" (Christmas tree) will make a welcome addition to the town square while the "festive embellishments of an illuminary nature" (fairy lights) are sure to produce gasps of amazement.

"Crackers is the only word for it," said Christie Maher, director of the Plain English Campaign. "I am all for being fair to

people of other cultures, but to try to do away with Christmas in the name of political correctness is ridiculous."

Northampton have shown themselves to be virtuous. People of all cultures enjoy Christmas, and they always will." The National Trust also got a seasonal roasting by the campaign after voluntary staff claimed they were told not to refer to Christmas but to the "festive season" and that they should stop children making the shape of the cross on traditional orange pomanders.

Mr Friddis said Northampton's phrases were supposed to be funny, although there was a serious point to the report. "We have to consider all the users of the town centre," Mr Friddis said. "We don't want to offend anyone."

Steve Jenkins, a spokesman for the Church of England, said: "We should recognise other people's religious festivals, not change Christian ones."

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## The Guardian

To our readers,

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.

We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites — an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over the world.

Guardian Newspapers will continue to invest in the future — to make The Guardian International available in as many countries as possible, as early as possible.

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Ad campaign irritates then celebrates

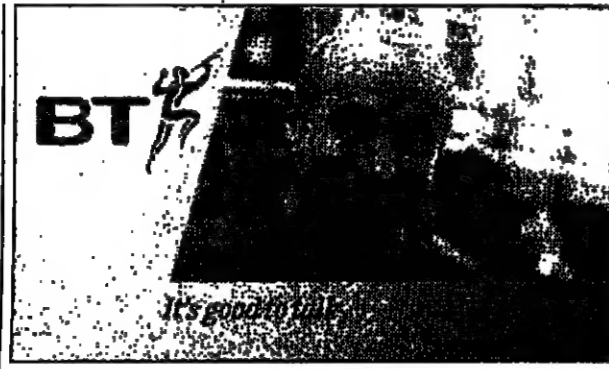


Bob Hoskins in rehearsal for his return to the stage this week in Old Wicked Songs. He will be replaced in the BT television campaign by a team of personalities PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN KYNE

Hoskins finds something to talk about

Dan Glatzer Arts Correspondent

THERE'S no such thing as a free lunch, as the ad industry proved yesterday when British Telecom's television campaign featuring Bob Hoskins as an ordinary guy who likes to talk won the top prize at the Advertising Effectiveness Awards run by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. At the same time, "It's Good to Talk" was voted one of the 10 most irritating television commercials.



The BT campaign voted one of the most irritating on TV

Mr Hoskins may well be a victim of his success. After 18 months, his final BT commercial will be screened at Christmas. The campaign is to be stepped up to 80 commercials next year, which was judged to be too great a strain for the actor. There will be no escaping Mr Hoskins, however, as he returns to the stage this week for the first time in 18 years with Old Wicked Songs at the Gielgud Theatre in the West End, London. He will be replaced in the BT campaign by a team of personalities.

Acts of faith

Age: 54. Born: North London to middle-class parents. The early years: market porter, clerk, trainee accountant, kibbutz. Early roles: Veterans with Sir John Gielgud, Thick As Thieves for television. First hit: Pennies From Heaven (1978).

First film hit: The Long Good Friday (1981). High: Oscar nomination for Mona Lisa. (1986). Low: Starring opposite a cartoon in Who Killed Roger Rabbit? (1989). Most recent film: The Secret Agent. Currently: Professor Mashkan in Old Wicked Songs.

prolonged rise in the duration of calls. Alfredo Marcantonio, of the Abbott Mead Vickers agency, which makes the BT commercials, said: "There's the whole thing in this country that wives use the phone more than men. Men tend to just pick up the phone to make a deal and then slam it down. Bob Hoskins was a good choice because he is different to most presenters: he is not aspirational, he's just an ordinary Joe. He's just an ordinary Joe. The way the advertisements talk about people using the phone was different. I think it rang a lot of bells about the phone being a lifeline for people."

Second minister under scrutiny

Newton asks whip to explain his role in Hamilton investigation

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THE cash for questions investigation is to be widened to include a second government minister accused of trying to subvert the initial inquiry into former trade minister Neil Hamilton's undeclared stay at the Ritz Hotel, Paris, and his payments from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

Mr Mitchell — who was then both a government whip and a member of the Members' Interests Committee, then examining Mr Hamilton's conduct — is potentially in serious trouble. He was accused by Angela Eagle, a Labour member of that inquiry, of trying to influence its proceedings. Mr Mitchell might also face being cross-questioned by his father, Sir David Mitchell, a member of the present committee examining the case. Mr Mitchell said last night: "I will help the committee in any way I can."

sent to Richard Ryder, then Chief Whip, showed that Mr Mitchell had used his privileged position to find out from the Registrar of Members' Interests — where MPs must register directors and consultancies — whether Mr Hamilton had lodged his controversial consultancy with Strategy New International, a public relations firm. The registrar is reported as saying the committee would not like this. Mr Mitchell comments to Mr Ryder: "Not very helpful I am afraid."

Willetts, the Paymaster General, was already struggling to explain a memo he had written to the Chief Whip. He has been accused of trying to smother the inquiry by suggesting that Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the Tory grandee chairing it, could declare the complaint and Justice or use the "aged Tory machinery" to rush it through the proceedings. The present inquiry followed the Guardian's exposure two years ago that ministers Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith had received cash from Mr Al Fayed for asking parliamentary questions in a campaign orchestrated by parliamentary lobbyist Ian Greer.

Al Fayed vows to win citizenship battle with Government

continued from page 1. al reason being given for the brothers being refused British citizenship there as widespread speculation that it was motivated by "leggy improper and purely political grounds". In his judgment Lord Wall said: "Justice must not be done but seen to be done and it has not been seen to be done in relation to the application of the Fayed's. They have not had the fairest

which they are entitled and the rule of law must be upheld." However, he stressed that his ruling "did not involve any criticism of the Home Secretary or his department." After the hearing, Mr Al Fayed questioned why the Home Secretary had made three personal interventions into the handling of his citizenship application including a request that further inquiries made.

Mr Howard has said he twice insisted that the decision be taken by the then Immigration Minister, Charles Wardle. "They baited it back and forth between them," said Michael Cole, Harrods' spokesman. A Home Office spokeswoman said last night that Mr Wardle's successor as Immigration Minister, Nicholas Baker, had taken the decision not to disclose the reasons for refusal after taking legal advice and in line with established practice.

The Harrods chairman also raised questions about Mr Howard's "family relationship" with his second cousin, Harold Landy, a close business associate of "Tiny" Rowland and a director of several Loro Piana companies. He claimed Mr Landy had sponsored Mr Howard's father when he came to Britain as a refugee and acted as a referee in his citizenship application.

Rightwinger sacked for gun protest

Even MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TERRY Dicks, the rightwing Tory MP, was sacked by the Government yesterday for his defiant support of the Dunblane parents in their campaign for a total handgun ban. Mr Dicks was given an ultimatum by the whips yesterday: either withdraw the threat to vote for a total handgun ban in a crucial Commons vote on Monday or face the sack as a Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS).

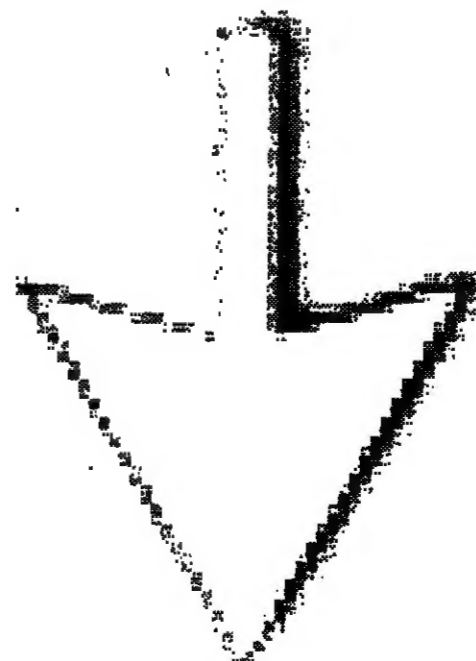


Terry Dicks... ridiculed Government's position

Rented quotes

On Barnet Healthcare Trust's plans for homosexual health workers to visit gay pick-up points and offer advice on contraception: "Homosexuals are perverts and this is just condoning their perverted behaviour. They should go round with a red hot poker to make sure they never do it again." On the Equal Opportunities Commission: "A nonsense organisation run by idiots." On black people: "Generally home idle: it's about time they were given a good kick in the pants." On opera: "Overweight Italians singing in their own language." On the National Anthem: "Turgid, miserable, boring and downbeat." On ballet dancers: "Men prancing about in ladies' tights." A partial ban goes too far and that gun owners are not being compensated. Mr Dicks was called in yesterday by Mr Watts, a friend, who had been told by government whips to hand him the ultimatum. Mr Dicks, aged 58, who is to stand down at the next election, was asked if the sacking marked the end of his political career. He replied: "I didn't know it had started." He has been outspoken on a series of issues, most recently advocating a return of caning. But since the Hungerford massacre in 1987, he has been calling for a handgun ban.

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France was saved. More than any doings of politicians, any level of deficit or surplus in the economy, it's completely daft things like an inch or two in skirt length which make a nation feel good about itself. Philip Hensher on Yves Saint Laurent

Books G2 page 8

4 BRITAIN

Stalker with 'eerie grin' told to pay her victim £5,000

Luke Harding

MATURE student who stalked a university lecturer for two years, standing outside his house with an 'eerie fixed grin', was yesterday ordered to pay him £5,000 damages.



Robert Fine... stalked by his student Eileen McLardy

evidence to the testimony of Mrs McLardy, who had accused him of sexually and verbally harassing her.

Asked if she should be sent to jail, he replied: "I would rather she stopped. I think if anything she needs some kind of psychological treatment."

office was broken into twice and a computer taken and his car was attacked four times.

Mrs McLardy, from Coventry, also followed Dr Fine into the local swimming pool.

Sir Jocelyn slates modern roofing for destroying 'vernacular heritage'



A traditional stone roof in Derbyshire, of the type English Heritage wants to restore and promote PHOTOGRAPH: DON MOPHEE

ENGLISH Heritage yesterday shouted from its rooftops in defence of traditional stone tiles, rises David Ward.

News in brief

Police at odds over freemasonry

THE Police Federation is to oppose attempts by senior officers to introduce a register of police freemasons. The federation, which represents officers up to the rank of inspector, has accused the Association of Chief Police Officers of being more interested in being "politically correct" than in protecting the rights of officers.

Religious adviser in court

A COUNCIL'S religious and moral education adviser yesterday pleaded guilty to exposing himself and performing an indecent act on a main road.

Sport 'can cut reoffending'

PLAYING sport helps stop criminals reoffending, according to research reported tonight on Radio Five's On The Line programme. The two year project, conducted at the University of Sheffield by Peter Taylor, shows that sports counselling, which requires offenders to take part in sport on release from prison, cuts reoffending rates from an expected 64 per cent to 49 per cent.

British aid 'tied to arms'

A SHARP increase in British aid to Indonesia has coincided with arms deals to the Jakarta regime in breach of official guidelines, according to the World Development Movement, a third world pressure group. Aid to Indonesia doubled to more than \$50 million in the five years to 1995, the year Britain agreed to supply Alvis armoured vehicles, the movement says in evidence to the National Audit Office.

Hip fractures 'preventable'

THOUSANDS of people fail to get treatment which could prevent hip fractures and other injuries resulting from osteoporosis because of a lack of diagnostic equipment and poor awareness of modern drugs, researchers said yesterday.

Topical, Not Tropical TROPICAL RAINFORESTS ARE IN THE NEWS - BUT THEY DON'T MAKE THE NEWSPAPERS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION DIAL THE FAX BACK NUMBER 0835 593039

Prison inspectors in Scotland and England raise problem of serious overcrowding

Drugs swamp remand wing for women

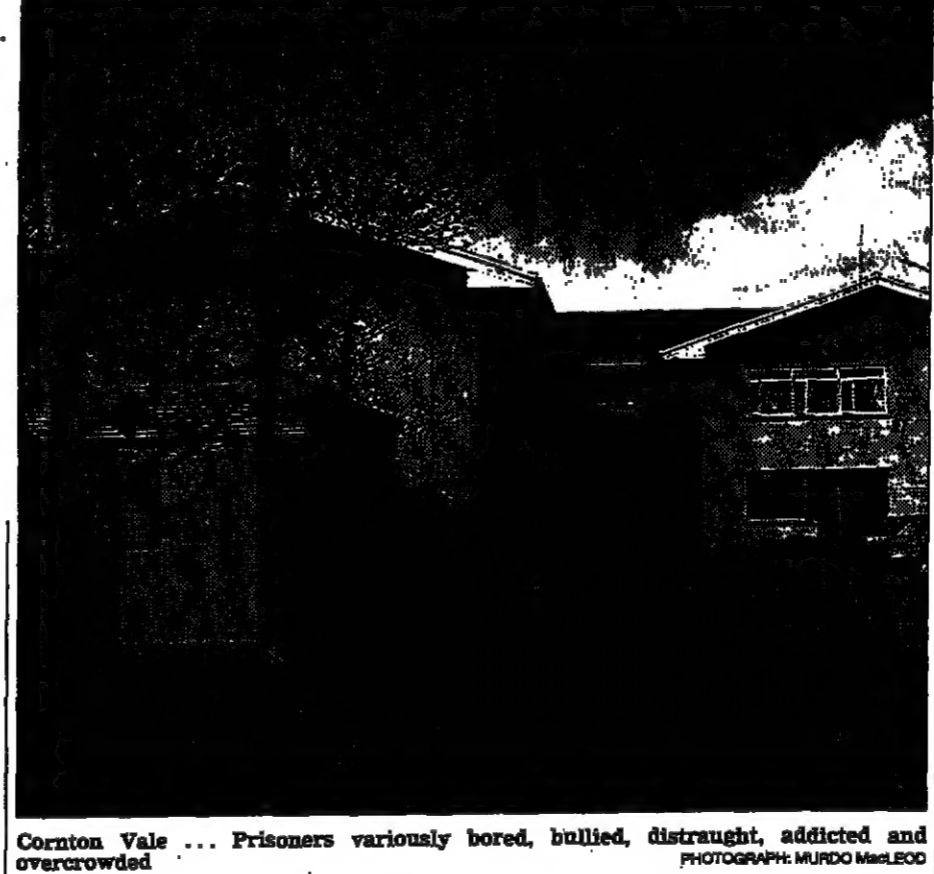
REMAND prisoners at a women's jail in Scotland where there have been five suicides in the past 15 months were yesterday told of demoralising and inadequate conditions, including a drug-dominated and often degrading environment, inspectors said yesterday.

Government details NHS vision

THE Government yesterday set out its vision of the future of the health service, amid allegations of electioneering and wasting public money.

Ombudsman criticises hospital after woman's fatal heart attack

A HOSPITAL which left a woman in an accident and emergency department for 10 hours until she died of a heart attack is today criticised by the ombudsman.



Cornton Vale... Prisoners variously bored, bullied, distraught, addicted and overcrowded PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MAMELOD

among their 183 charges. The challenge was apparent in the medical prescriptions for the prison - 2,670 in October 1995 and 5,838 in October 1995.

He also rejected a proposal that the prison hire another medical worker for inmates suffering withdrawal symptoms and drug-induced fits.

to consider further the report's suggestion that the Scottish Office investigate the provision of bail hostels for female remand prisoners from the greater Glasgow.

Police cells to take overflow of prisoners

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

PRISONERS are to be held in £300 a night police cells by the end of this week as an emergency measure to cope with the steep rise in the jail population, the director general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, revealed yesterday.

The Guardian The Observer This multi-purpose bag, subtly headed with the Guardian International and the Observer logos, is made with a black heavy duty poly/canvas and is designed to hold everything you would carry in your attache case. Expanding by 60%, features include a strong zip reading a rotary control section, fitted with many inner pockets and compartments.

Party planning measures from nursery care to curfews

Labour floats plan to improve parenting

Sarah Boseley

THE Labour Party yesterday launched a strategy to improve parenting in Britain, promising measures from nursery care to curfews and court orders.

Mr Straw cited a 1997 study of 600 children in high crime inner city and rundown suburban estates, which found the rate of delinquency where there was lax parental supervision was more than seven times that for families assessed as being strict.



Poor parenting is blamed for casting a shadow of delinquency and juvenile crime over society PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GIBSON

A more practical step forward is outlined in the pilot project for 26 early excellence centres, which will combine child care and nursery education for 75 children aged one to three in each centre and be open all year during the adult working day.

Curfews to keep children under the age of 10 off the street at night. Local consultation between residents, the local authority and the police would establish how the curfew should work, and what time is best.

Paper says little that is not known already

Broadcaster and writer Claire Rayner gives two cheers for Straw's document on child rearing

A WARM welcome to the initiative, belated though it is. Many workers in the field of child care and development have been pleading for a long time for more government awareness and support for children's and parents' needs.

children in the current long working hours culture we inhabit, that parental leave in the European model (which is used more by mothers than by fathers) would be a good thing, but duck the issue of treating fathers as of high importance at the time a baby is born.

Loner 'murdered woman in lane'

Stuart Miller

A LONER accused of killing a woman blindfolded her in an "impulsive, sudden and furtive attack" as she was walking her dog, Oxford Crown Court heard yesterday.

last places where you would expect a terrible murder to take place. On August 12 last year — the day after Mrs Thompson and her husband, Jonathan, celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary — she took the family dog for a walk.

She was flown by helicopter to John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford where she later died. Mr Browne said Weston had few if any friends. There was evidence to suggest he had an interest in Mrs Thompson. He was seen staring at her house on one occasion, and was able to give police precise details of when and where he had seen her.

He was arrested three times before being charged, giving police contradictory accounts of where he had been on the day of the attack. After the murder, villagers noticed two bonfires in his back garden, in which the prosecution claim he burned clothing.

War of words keeps Fergie talking on American TV

Martin Walker in Washington

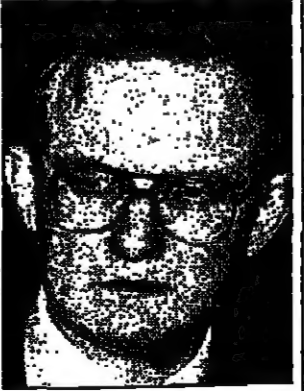
FERGIE, Duchess of York, went on America's top rated confessional TV talk show yesterday for an emotional public catharsis before 30 million viewers.

Playing to American audiences comes naturally to the duchess, who told Diane Sawyer in Prime Time Live that Britain could be an unfriendly place.

Tories look shaky as beef delay angers Ulster MPs

Michael White Political Editor

THE Government was last night forced to pull the stops out to avoid a Commons defeat over its handling of the protracted BSE crisis after the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, failed to reassure Ulster Unionist MPs that the worldwide ban will soon be lifted for Northern Ireland's beef.



Douglas Hogg... challenged by Unionists

taunted by failure by the shadow foreign secretary, Mr Cook, and challenged by David Trimble, Ian Paisley and other Unionists, Mr Hogg repeatedly conceded that he had not resumed the so-called selective cull of 128,000 vulnerable cattle because there was no guarantee it would produce even a partial lifting of the EU-imposed ban.

Malcolm Bruce, said Scottish farmers were "ready and willing and able to start implementing that cull now as the first phase of the agreement". Mr Hogg repeatedly insisted that member states were "facing very strong internal pressure from their consumers and from their farming unions not to agree to a rapid and substantial lifting of the ban".



Friends of the Earth marked the centenary of the repeal of the 'red flag' law with a protest that reduced traffic to a crawl in Leeds yesterday. FoE is backing a private members' bill by Liberal Democrat MP, Don Foster, aimed at cutting road traffic by 5 per cent in 10 years PHOTOGRAPH: JUSTIN SLEE

Mackay firm on payments crackdown

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

ATTEMPTS by the press to tighten its code restricting payments to witnesses in trials were dismissed as insignificant last night by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor.

ment was determined to press ahead with legislation to outlaw the practice. A consultation paper from his department, issued after the Rosemary West case when 19 witnesses signed contracts with the media, has recommended a new criminal offence barring payments to witnesses or making it a specific contempt of court.

four significant cases in 40 years and self-regulation was the best approach. The newspaper industry's code of practice has been tightened, putting an onus on editors to prove an overriding public interest and to ensure that prosecution and defence counsel are aware of any payments. But Lord Mackay said: "The changes that have been made do not signal to me a

Government nursery voucher ads 'political' claims Labour

John Carvel Education Editor

THE Government was accused yesterday of using taxpayers' money to win votes when ministers revealed plans for a final wave of television advertisements to promote nursery vouchers in March — just before the election campaign is likely to start.

Education and Employment Secretary, said the publicity would give parents of 650,000 four-year-olds a last opportunity to claim their right to a £1,000 pre-school education voucher.

# Roads blocked as ousted general defies president Serbs' power feud near boiling point

Julian Borger in Han Pijesak

**B**OSNIAN Serb political leaders and senior officers were trying to negotiate a compromise yesterday after their struggle for control of the army threatened to escalate into open conflict with a string of tit-for-tat detentions.



Police and interior ministry special troops with assault rifles manned checkpoints on roads leading to the military headquarters in Han Pijesak yesterday to try to prevent officers attending a meeting chaired by General Ratko Mladic — the wartime military leader wanted for war crimes by the United Nations tribunal in The Hague.

Col Stancevic said the Muslim-led Bosnian army was trying to gain from the Serbs' disarray by advancing into Serb-held land under cover of helping refugees return to their pre-war homes.

International mediators suspended the return of refugees across Bosnia's ethnic boundary yesterday after a clash between a Muslim crowd and Serb police in northern Bosnia on Tuesday, in which one Muslim was killed, and at least four people were wounded.

cluding the abduction of officers who they said had been coerced into swearing allegiance to Gen Colic.

The army officers claimed that the interior ministry forces had taken over military installations, where they had been put on combat readiness. The statement accused citing members of the Bosnian Serb army to refuse orders from headquarters and brigade commanders.

It added: "We remind the interior minister of our common bloodshed in five years of war against the enemies of the Serb people, and we appeal to them not to allow the ministry's services and units to lead us into a fratricidal war."

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International mediators suspended the return of refugees across Bosnia's ethnic boundary yesterday after a clash between a Muslim crowd and Serb police in northern Bosnia on Tuesday, in which one Muslim was killed, and at least four people were wounded.

Col Stancevic said: "This is a new doctrine — encroaching on our territory under cover of wanting to live together. They know our people don't want to live together so they will always pull back, and they [Muslims] will continue to get more territory. They have taken advantage of our situation and they will continue to do it until there is some kind of solution or a new conflict."



Naked demonstrators protesting against the sale of genetically-modified soya beans from the United States, disrupt a news conference by the US agriculture secretary at the World Food Summit in Rome yesterday to demand "The Naked Truth" from him. Environmentalists, led by Greenpeace, are worried that the beans, modified to resist a herbicide, could be a threat to health. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL HANNA

## US urges Bosnian factions to work for common good

**A**MULTINATIONAL conference opening in Paris today is expected to adopt a two-year plan aimed at consolidating the peace in Bosnia with a smaller Nato-led force.

peace treaty, which is to be reviewed at the conference. Speaking last night before the meeting, the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, urged the Muslim, Croat and Serb members of Bosnia's three-member joint presidency to drop factional rivalries and bring to life the government of their divided state.

Mr Christopher condemned the clash on Tuesday when at least two Muslim men were killed and two Serbs wounded as Muslims, attempting to return to their homes in Serb-controlled Gajevi, were forced back by Serb police.

## 'Head on a dead body' asks court to let him die

Adela Gooch in Madrid

**R**AMON SAMPEDRO, who has been paralysed and bedridden since a swimming accident 28 years ago, asked a Spanish court yesterday to let him die.

He called on the court "not to punish anyone who helped me to die... I could starve to death, but why should I undergo the further torture of watching away and sinking into coma?"

Spain's Right to Die organisation claims that 80 per cent of the population support the legalisation of euthanasia. But the Roman Catholic Church has strongly resisted moves to change the law.

## Coal hole on dole seeks a new role

Fred Webster in Paris

**A**N INTERNATIONAL search is under way to find a use for Europe's biggest unwanted artificial hole — a gigantic open-cast coal mine in Carmaux in the southern French département of Tarn.

The opencast mine was opened as a replacement for underground pits which then employed 600 workers — half as many as when coal extraction was at its peak. We were conned into believing there would be permanent jobs when the opencast mine was opened, and I expect we'll be conned again."

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### World news in brief

#### Women and children killed in attack on Algerian village

**A**GROUP of 20 to 25 men killed 12 Algerians, including women and children, yesterday in a raid on a village south of Algiers.

Algerian security forces said: "Among the victims were four women and three children."

#### Greek forces to get £11bn

**G**REECE announced a major military spending programme yesterday, saying it was spending almost \$11 billion on overhauling its armed forces by 2007.

The prime minister, Costas Karamanlis, said that half the money would be spent by 2000 but the programme would not affect Greece's convergence targets for European monetary union.

#### Rioters rock French Guiana

**R**IOTS raged in Cayenne, French Guiana, yesterday for a third time in a week. The authorities accused violent groups of trying to destabilise the country.

Riot police fired tear gas at stone-throwing crowds and fought for hours to push them back to the outskirts. Officials said the rioters hurled petrol bombs at the home of the state prosecutor.

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Boutros-Ghali 'will go with dignity' if vetoed by US

# UN chief accepts his time is over

Mark Tran in New York

THE United States will veto a second term for Boutros Boutros-Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations next week, opening the way for a scramble to find a successor who can reinvigorate the demoralised organisation.

A rumour that Mr Boutros-Ghali might be allowed to stay on for another year is still circulating at the UN, but privately he has admitted to his aides that his days are numbered.

They say he will withdraw his name after the expected veto by the United States rather than jeopardise Africa's chances of holding on to the post.

The Egyptian envoy to the UN, Nabil Elaraby, formally nominated Mr Boutros-Ghali for a second term in a letter yesterday to Nugroho Wisniumurti, the Indonesian ambassador who is the current president of the Security Council.

The formal vote and America's almost certain veto are expected at a meeting on Monday behind closed doors. "He will withdraw out of a sense of his own dignity and for the good of the UN," a diplomat said.

Once Mr Boutros-Ghali has withdrawn, member states will nominate candidates and a straw poll will be held.



Boutros-Ghali: frightened of scuppering the chances of other African candidates

Britain has not expressed a preference; the US is keeping quiet because its endorsement would scupper any hopeful's chances.

America's stock at the UN has sunk to an all-time low. This week it was soundly rebuked when the General Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution calling for the US embargo against Cuba to be lifted.

Britain supported the measure rather than abstaining as it has done since the resolution was introduced five years ago.

Equally humiliating, and even more significant, was the US failure last week to win a seat on a key UN financial committee — the 16-member advisory committee on administration and budgetary questions.

This is the first time the US has been voted off the committee and it has hardened American opposition to Mr Boutros-Ghali, even though he had no vote.

"It is proof that we need another secretary-general," a US official said in a leap of logic that escaped most diplomats.

As well as restoring morale at UN headquarters, the new secretary-general will urgently need to mend fences with Washington and win friends on Capitol Hill — a task made harder by recent developments at the UN.

Several women candidates have emerged, including Mary Robinson, the president of Ireland, Gro Harlem Brundtland, until recently prime minister of Norway, and Leticia Shahani, a Philippine senator.

But diplomats believe that an African is more likely to succeed Mr Boutros-Ghali. Kofi Annan, the head of UN peacekeeping, is the leading candidate.

Universally popular, Mr Annan, a Ghanaian, knows his way around the UN and is adept at reconciling different viewpoints.

"He is great at bringing people together, but he may be too much of a compromiser," a UN peacekeeping official said.



Inhabitants of Nazca, 235 miles south-east of Lima, contemplate the destruction in one of the towns worst-hit by an earthquake on Tuesday which killed 15 people and injured up to 700 throughout southern and central Peru

## Indian experts study aircraft recorders for clues to crash

Early theories are already being ruled out as the cause of the world's worst mid-air disaster, writes Owen Bowcott

INDIAN aviation experts were listening to recordings of the final words of the Kazakh and Saudi pilots last night in the hope of discovering the cause of the world's worst mid-air collision.

The "black box" flight and cockpit voice recorders from both aircraft were extracted, scorched but intact, from the wreckage of both the Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing-747 and the Kazakh Ilyushin IL-76 freighter. They may explain why the two aircraft collided 50 miles south-west of New Delhi on Tuesday with the loss of 349 lives.

India and the former Soviet states have in the past been criticised for their air safety records. Last night it remained unclear whether the disaster had been caused by pilot or air traffic control error or whether it was due to equipment failure.

Early theories that the Kazakh pilot could not speak English, and that he mistook his height in metres for feet, were being discounted.

"It is clear that the Kazakh pilot knew it was to fly at 15,000ft," Yogesh Chandra, the senior civil servant at the civil aviation ministry, said after transcripts of the control tower's exchanges with the pilots were published.

The Kazakh airline's pilot was also aware the Saudi Arabian airliner was cleared to fly to 14,000ft, and that the distance between them was 1,000ft, which is the standard.

It was also clear, Mr Chandra added, "that both planes were aware of each other's approach, especially the Kazakh pilot, who asked 'What is the distance now between us?'"

"What the pilots did after this exchange of conversation is something that can only come out once the black boxes are decoded."

Criticism was made of the fact that planes landing and taking off from Delhi's Indira Gandhi airport use the same corridor. But Mr Chandra said this was common practice in many countries.

Delays in upgrading the airport's radar equipment, to provide air traffic controllers with more detailed information, may have contributed to the collision, the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association suggested.

There had been three near mid-air collisions during a six-month period in 1994 and 1995, following a surge in air traffic to and from India, it said. "The air corridors in Indian skies are becoming more and more congested."

The government had failed to equip major airports, including New Delhi, with radar transponders which would allow air traffic controllers to track each aircraft's height and speed. Ordinary radar shows only the plane's direction.

A senior flight safety official at the state-owned Indian Airlines said a transponder had been installed at the Indira Gandhi airport but was not yet operational.

But concern was focused mainly on the airworthiness of the Kazakh plane. The Foreign Office in London advises travellers to the former Soviet republics to "fly directly to your destination on a scheduled flight originating outside Russia". It adds: "It is not known whether aircraft maintenance procedures are always properly observed."

Commercial airliners from nearby Tajikistan are banned by the Department of Transport from entering British airspace.

The head of Russia's air traffic control centre, Robert Urtsev, said the Ilyushin planes did carry collision warning equipment, though some pilots, he conceded, had a habit of switching it off.

Kazakh officials denied claims that the freighter, owned by the deeply indebted Kazakhstan Airlines (Kaz-Air), might be at fault. But it emerged that KazAir's state owners had criticised its safety standards before formally shutting it down in August because of its debts.

Overworked crews and a shortage of cash for maintenance have been blamed for a number of crashes suffered by the new airlines of the former Soviet republics.

The Kazakh jet was at least the fourth fatal Ilyushin-76 crash this year. In April, one crashed on the Russian far eastern Kamchatka peninsula; in June, eight Ukrainian crew perished on take-off at Kinshasa; in August, 10 crew died on a Russian Ilyushin-76 which crashed near Belgrade after reporting mechanical failure.

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## Britain agrees to pitch in in Zaire

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN is ready to commit troops to help cope with the humanitarian emergency in Zaire — but not until crucial questions about the mission are clarified, it emerged last night.

Senior ministers left a meeting of the Cabinet's overseas policy and defence committee bolstered by the United States decision to take part in a Canadian-led multinational force but still unclear about its mandate and size.

"Ministers agreed that the UK should be ready to contribute constructively to the international response, including to a multinational force, providing a satisfactory plan can be worked out."

Downing Street said: "We are discussing urgently with other potential contributors the scale and nature of that response." More discussions will be held today.

Contingency planning for brigade-strength deployment is under way but the Ministry of Defence lowered expectations of any imminent movement by insisting that no troops were on standby.

## Pot law reformer plans mass production

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

TRUMPHEANT Dennis Peron, architect of the Californian cannabis reform law, plans to grow thousands of plants in warehouses to supply the sick and dying.

He says that the referendum law decriminalising the drug for medicinal purposes, which was passed in the November 5 election by a 55-44 per cent majority, makes his Cannabis Buyers' Club in San Francisco a "primary care giver" protected from prosecution if it supplies the cannabis direct.

But the city's district attorney, Terence Hallinan, is not altogether convinced. "I need to know more, but I think that would be prosecuted," he said. "We see the primary care giver as a companion of someone with Aids who goes out in the street and scores an ounce for his friend to use."

The wording of the law is vague, Mr Peron claims that the definition of a care giver as the consistent provider of "housing, health, or safety" to a patient need-

ing cannabis entitles the club to grow what is now recognised in California as a medicinal marijuana.

He points to the club's record. For five years it sold cannabis at discount prices to 12,000 patients with the approval of city officials, provided the patients brought identification and a doctor's letter.

"We gave primary care," he declares, "and patients can now assign us."

August and then arrested him, said: "It's a disaster. We have legal anarchy."

Nevertheless, he has not gone to court to challenge the law, as his opponents expected. Mr Fratello believes that the state lacks sufficient legal grounds for a challenge.

But he and others acknowledge that the state legislature should "tidy up" the law in its next session by clarifying some definitions.

The law lists cancer, anorexia, Aids, chronic pain, spasticity, glaucoma, arthritis, and migraine as candidates for cannabis treatment with a doctor's recommendation, and adds "any other illness for which marijuana provides relief". Critics say this is too vague and could lead to abuse.

California police officers are also confused about applying the law, which became effective as soon as it was passed.

Different forces have received different orders, but nobody claiming medical need has been arrested since election day and at least three pending cases have been dropped.

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# Finance Guardian

## Halifax ends mortgage war

Larry Elliott  
and Simon Reid

**B** RITAIN'S biggest building society, the Halifax, today launched a pre-emptive strike against a 1996-style housing market boom when it raised the cost of its fixed rate, discount and cashback mortgages.

Amid growing evidence that the authorities are becoming concerned about the prospect of a fresh burst of property inflation, the country's largest mortgage lender announced hefty rises in the cost of some of its home-loan packages.

Mike Blackburn, the society's chief executive, said: "With the continued recovery in the housing market and the recent bank base rate rise we are positioning our mortgage rates at a sensible level to avoid over-stimulation of the market."

"This should be the position of any responsible lender to ensure the boom-bust cycle

## Pound hits highest level against dollar in four years

Simon Kennedy and Larry Elliott

**C** ITY fears of a further rise in interest rates sent the pound surging to its highest level against the dollar for more than four years on the foreign exchange markets last night.

News of a bigger than expected fall in the official jobless total and evidence that the Bank of England is growing increasingly concerned about the outlook for inflation sent investors piling into sterling.

It closed in London at \$1.6542, a level not seen since October 1992, the end of the late 1990s and early 1990s is avoided."

The Halifax move followed Tuesday's decision by the Nationwide building society to raise its standard variable rate mortgage by 0.25 points to 6.74 per cent from December 1.

Although the Halifax has left its own standard mortgage rate unchanged at 6.99

month after Black Wednesday. On Wall Street the pound was changing hands at around DM2.50 against the German mark.

Simon Briscoe, economist with Japanese securities firm Nikko, said the markets were braced for a half-point rise in interest rates at the next meeting between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Bank of England governor, Eddie George, and a 1.5 percentage point jump in the next 12 months. "This is one of those periods when it is best if economists keep out of the way because it is hard to explain market sentiment. The markets seem to have gone honkers."

Mr Briscoe said demand from overseas investors had helped to boost the pound because prospective UK interest rates looked attractive in comparison with other global markets.

The sharp increase came as the minutes from the late September meeting between the Chancellor and the governor showed Mr George pressing for a rise in base rates, to 6 per cent, a month before the increase actually happened. The minutes reveal that the governor pointed to the strength of demand and warned Mr Clarke that a delay in tightening monetary policy might mean an even bigger increase in base rates at a later stage.

Halifax raised its forecast to 6 per cent in the summer and to 7 per cent once the October data had come in.

Its economists are expecting a similar increase in 1997, although that is considered to be pessimistic by some analysts, who are looking for a double-digit rise next year.

The Bank of England has for some time been expressing concern about the willingness of lenders to offer cut-price packages to home-loan borrowers, and has been pointing recently to the pick-up in both prices and transaction levels.

Although the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, would welcome the recovery in house prices at a time when the Government is lagging well behind Labour in the opinion polls, the authorities are determined that there should be no repeat of the Lawson boom.

House prices rose by 23 per cent in 1988 and a further 20 per cent in 1989 before corrective action by the Government triggered the crash of the early 1990s.

## No saving grace for pension firms



Edited by Alex Brummer

**A** T LONG last the City regulators have designed to tell the public about the progress made in resolving the calamity visited on some half-a-million savers who were wrongly persuaded — with the connivance of the Government — to switch from occupational pension schemes to private pension plans.

It does not make for pleasant reading. Instead of resolving the majority of cases by the end of this year the Securities & Investments Board has extended the deadline for a further 12 months and waffled on about the review being "unacceptably slow" as if it were nothing to do with the board, or the Personal Investment Authority, charged with sorting out the mess.

When the late Robert Maxwell raided the pension funds of the companies in his empire, the regulator responsible described the events as a freak storm. The general assumption was that, however intrusive the regulation, it would never be robust enough to stand up to a swindler of Maxwell's galle. But the regulatory system even seems incapable of dealing with the steady drizzle represented by the pensions mis-selling scandal.

This was nothing to do with lone nuts, the City's favourite scapegoats.

It was wholesale abuse of the public's trust in some of the grandest names in the pensions business and independent financial advisers, and the failure of the regulation system set up under the terms of the 1986 Financial Services Act.

The size of the potential shortfall is enormous. With redress offered in 6,237 cases out of 34,337 examined, the cost is £49.9 million. If these figures are a guide, the potential bill for the financial services industry, as it seeks to put matters right, will be upwards of \$1 billion.

There are no saints here. The regulators let down the people persuaded to switch out of perfectly good pension schemes. They have now compounded the error by missing all deadlines to resolve the issue.

The Government must share the blame. It promoted the virtues of switching to private pension plans, when it was always the case that those who moved out of well funded occupational schemes would be worse off. But the industry must also accept its share of opprobrium. It was the sales force from some of the country's best-known financial service providers that wrought this mess.

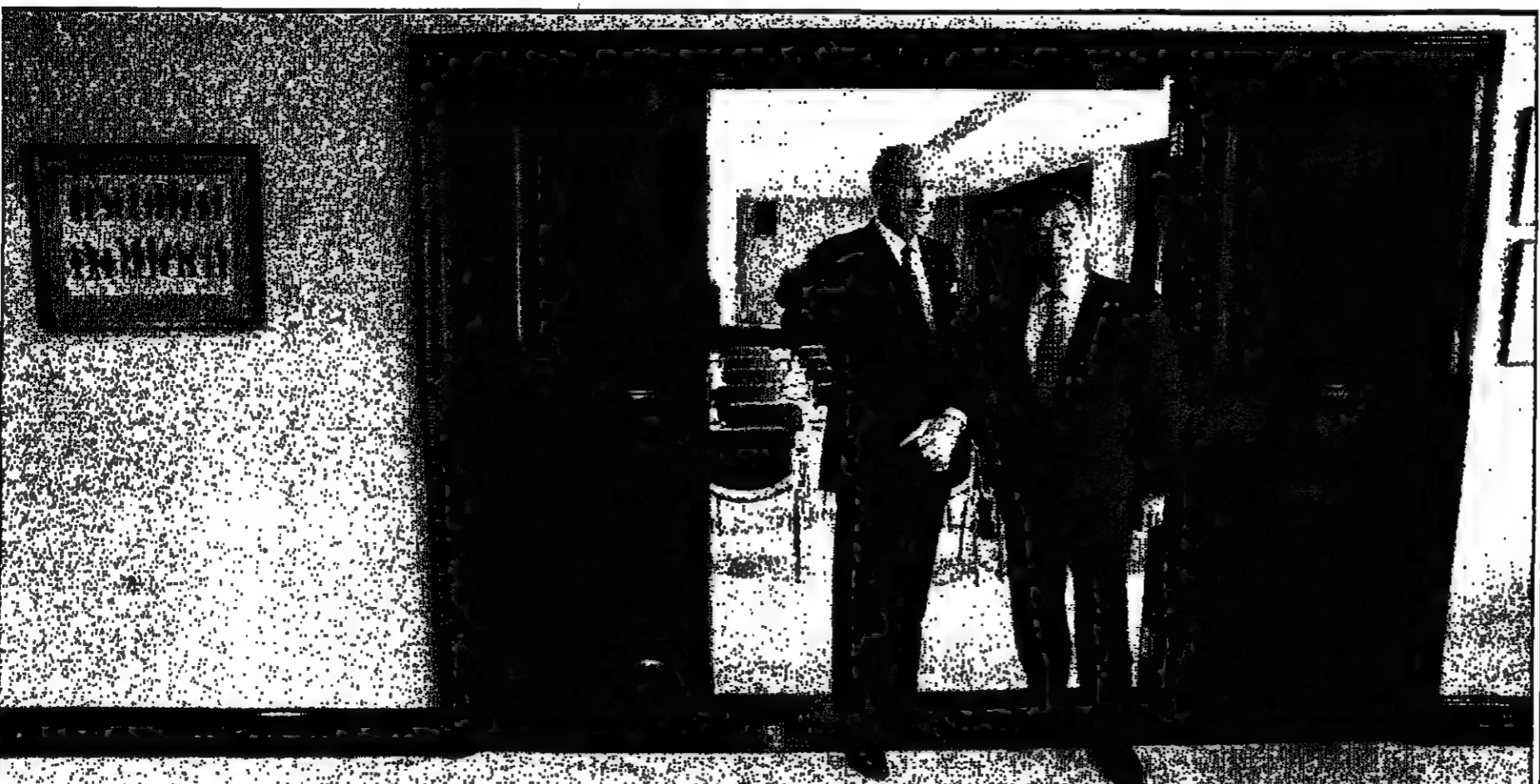
Trustees of the occupational pension schemes did not do enough to dissuade members of the financial dis-

advantages of switching out, and those same schemes have been slow to come forward with the detailed financial information needed for restitution. There is perhaps no better example of how the distorted Thatcherite morality of self-interest destroyed the confidence and integrity of the savings industry.

### Lang's lament

**S** EVEN months to the selection and Ian Lang with the dithered financial information needed for restitution. There is perhaps no better example of how the distorted Thatcherite morality of self-interest destroyed the confidence and integrity of the savings industry.

## 'Double dividend' raises hackles • Virginians to pay £1.3bn



Dominion chairman Tom Capps and East Midlands chairman Sir Nigel Rudd yesterday after the takeover was agreed

## Big electricity users attack power price fix

Simon Beech  
Industrial Editor

**A** GOVERNMENT-backed scheme to keep the lights on this winter by fixing the privatised electricity market was last night attacked by big users as a licence for power companies to raise prices and "gamble" on the gas and electricity markets.

The Energy Intensive Users Group — representing some of the country's largest industrial firms — made the allegations in a stinging letter to the electricity regulator, Stephen Littlechild.

The EIUG warned that the scheme, which compensates generators forced to switch to expensive fuels during high demand, could "cause price hikes without improving system security, as well as encouraging generators to game" in the electricity and

gas markets. The group's complaints centre on an agency measure drawn up by the executive of the electricity pool last month under strong pressure from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The DTI was desperate to ensure that there was no repeat of problems seen last winter when the national grid came close to collapse on several occasions. In July, officials asked the pool executive to come up with solutions for this winter.

Industry sources suggest the Government is keen to avoid embarrassing energy disruptions while its experiments with liberalising energy markets are under intense scrutiny ahead of the election. One source said the measures were an indication of the growing problems of "balancing the demands of the gas and electricity energy markets".

Last night, pool executives

insisted that the new system would not allow power generators to profiteer and said that the measures were unlikely to be invoked often.

The new system compensates generators using gas by allowing them to charge higher prices whenever they are forced to switch to more expensive fuels. Last winter, the grid came close to collapse when gas stations on interruptible contracts were forced to shut down at periods of peak gas demand. The new rules are supposed to be an incentive for the stations to keep running even though the cost of using oil or propane is much higher.

But the EIUG says there is nothing to stop the generators selling their gas to the gas market and charging higher prices to use alternative fuels, allowing them to earn what it called a "double dividend".

In a letter to Prof Littlechild, the EIUG's chairman

Ian Blakey, said the measures had been "hotted through". He claimed the generators had blocked other ways of maintaining supplies "in their own interests".

The rules cannot be stopped by the regulator unless there is a formal appeal by one of the pool executive members. The EIUG letter does not constitute an appeal.

Dr Brian Saunders, director of trading of the pool, conceded there was nothing in the new rules to stop arbitrage. But he said the executive would stop the system if arbitrage trades were seen as a "prime motive".

The measures were a short-term arrangement for this winter. More sophisticated changes were already being looked at. "We were under some pressure from the DTI and the regulator to get something in place to stop the lights going out. We've done the best we can," he said.

and businesses. With a \$4.2 billion market capitalisation, Dominion has nuclear, gas and property interests.

Sir Nigel admitted he had received approaches from other US utilities, but declined to say when.

With Northern Electric filing a hostile \$765 million bid from Nebraska-based CalEnergy, there could soon be only three independent regional electricity companies left.

Shares in East Midlands rose 13p to close at 629p, well below the offer price, as the market decided the Trade Secretary, Ian Lang, could block the US bids. Northern shares ended 15.5p down at 590p.

Mr Capps said there were no grounds for blocking the bid. He was to speak with the industry regulator, Stephen Littlechild, yesterday to assure him that East Midlands would be ring-fenced to safeguard its finances.

Shadow energy minister John Battle pledged that Labour would ensure profits made by the electricity companies were published. It would ensure that "tough, efficient regulation" was enforced.

Mr Capps held out the prospect of stepping up East Midlands' plans to sell gas when the market opens up in 1998. Dominion would also look at establishing financial services in the UK.

East Midlands executive directors are likely to stay, though Sir Nigel, a non-executive, will leave.

## East Midlands succumbs to US dominion

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

**E**AST Midlands Electricity looks likely to fall into American hands after it decided to bid a £1.3 billion takeover of the Virginian utility, Dominion Resources.

The move heightened speculation that the Government would block US takeovers in the electricity industry. Dominion is offering 67p for each East Midlands share, a 25 per cent premium on the share price the day before it made its first statement.

East Midlands' backing came yesterday after late night talks in London and a week after Dominion was forced to declare an interest by intense market speculation.

Tom Capps, Dominion chairman and chief executive, said the offer was about 10 per cent higher than indicated last week but worth paying for East Midlands' backing. The offer took into account Labour's possible imposition of a windfall tax. The chairman, Sir Nigel Rudd, said East Midlands, privatised at 240p six years ago, had passed on special dividends and the proceeds of the National Grid flotation to shareholders worth 260p.

Dominion's principal subsidiary is Virginia Power, the 14th largest US electricity company, supplying two million homes

## Eggar backs new utility controls

Celia Weston  
Industrial Correspondent

**F** ORMER energy minister Tim Eggar yesterday called for a radical overhaul of utility regulation only weeks after resigning as minister responsible for the regime under which the privatised gas and electricity industries operate.

Giving evidence to the Commons trade and industry select committee, Mr Eggar also appeared to contradict government energy policy

against vertical integration in the electricity industry.

Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has vetoed National Power and PowerGen, the two electricity generating companies, from taking over any of the original 12 regional companies.

In a clear departure from the office, Mr Eggar called for the creation of a new select committee on regulated industries, with a small permanent staff, with a small permanent specialist staff along the lines of the public accounts committee.

He also told MPs that regulators should remain truly independent, that consultation with consumers should be improved and that a wide-reaching review of competition law should be instigated to clarify the roles of regulators, the Trade and Industry Secretary and the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Eggar, who has just become chairman of MW Kellogg, an oil industry equipment supplier, argued that six or seven electricity suppliers were the minimum number needed to secure genuine

competition — a figure which could be achieved through takeovers and mergers.

PowerGen's chairman, Ed Wallis, has long argued that five or six vertically integrated companies will eventually run the UK electricity industry.

Mr Lang has waved through most electricity takeovers but blocked PowerGen's takeover of Midlands Electricity and National Power's bid for Southern.

Mr Eggar said everyone had underestimated the problems of privatisation.

## X marks the spot

**T** HE substantial drop in unemployment, which could be down to two million by the new year, will be a cause for satisfaction for the newly employed as well as the government. But on the markets it is having less laudable effects.

The pound is growing stronger, potentially damaging Britain's export prospects and the trend in interest rates is unmistakably upwards.

After the Nationwide's decision to add 0.25 of a point to its basic mortgage rate, sending it up to 6.74 per cent, the Halifax has followed through with dramatic increases on its five-year and discounted variable rate mortgages.

This is accompanied by a cautious message from Halifax chief Mike Blackburn that the housing market is starting to look frothy.

The words could have come from Bank Governor Eddie George himself.

## News in brief

**Brewers want beer duty cut**  
A Budget submission by the brewers argued last night that cutting 5p off the price of a pint of beer would produce a heavy economic mixture of lower inflation, more jobs and — in time — a boost to government revenue. Sales have fallen by 13 per cent since 1979, according to a report for the Brewers' and Licensed Retailers' Association, which blamed rises in beer duty and the creation of the single market.

Oxford Economic Forecasting researcher Adrian Cooper used the Treasury's own economic model to support the industry's case.

**BA link-up inquiry**  
The European Commission has started a formal investigation into the alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. The EU's competition department has sent a statement of objections to the two airlines asking for more information about the deal, according to EU sources. The move marks the first step in an investigation that could lead the commission to demand changes in, or even block, the accord. The commission told the two airlines that it did not see obvious advantages to consumers. The two airlines were given two months to respond.

**Setback for CU**  
Bad weather has taken its toll on Commercial Union, the Britain's largest composite insurer. Pre-tax profits for the nine months to the end of September were 3.6 per cent up on last year, at £457 million, but operating profits sank 9 per cent to £348 million. The company's life business performed well but was undermined by winter storms which cost it £82 million more than last year.

**TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS**

Australia 2.029	France 8.13	Italy 2.458	Singapore 2.25
Austria 16.98	Germany 2.41	Malta 0.57	Taiwan HK\$ 7.45
Belgium 49.85	Greece 394.00	Netherlands 2.20	Spain 203.00
Canada 2.17	Hong Kong 12.43	New Zealand 2.05	Sweden 10.77
Cyprus 0.73	India 58.78	Norway 10.16	Switzerland 2.02
Denmark 9.30	Ireland 0.9690	Portugal 248.00	Turkey 158.844
Finland 1.42	Israel 5.33	Saudi Arabia 6.14	USA 1.6120

Supplied by Halifax Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Dogged determination



Labour's education spokesman David Blunkett and visually impaired businessman Tom Poy (left) - accompanied by their guide dogs - yesterday helped host a parliamentary seminar on helping blind people find secure employment, with the slogan "Out of sight - Out of Work?"

Vultures circle the Hambro bluebloods

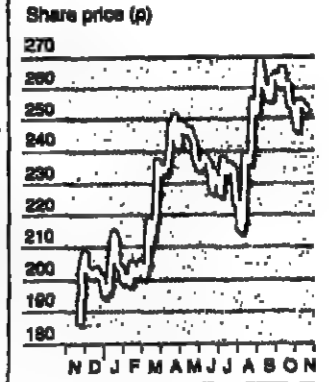
Outlook

Patrick Donovan

HAMBROS, the merchant bank, will have to do a lot better than promise last month if it is to wriggle out of the talons of predatory "vulture fund", Regent Pacific. Earlier this autumn the Hong-Kong based investor was widely criticised when it demanded a Hambros shake-up on the back of its recently acquired 3 per cent holding. But, yesterday, many in the market were rapidly coming around to Regent's line of thinking as Hambros failed to meet the most pessimistic market forecasts with its latest set of financial results. As one of the City's few remaining independent merchant banks, Hambros is still finding a lucrative niche in a market increasingly dominated by big international banking conglomerates. To be fair, Hambros had already acknowledged the need to restructure long before Regent launched its attack. But for all the allowances the market is making for Hambros to re-align the business, the 7.5p fall in shares to 245p underlines the growing dissatisfaction at the time it is taking to generate results. Overall, the group may have transformed last year's \$7.7 million loss into a \$35 million profit for the half year to September 30. But the turnaround came from an upturn in its estate agency business. Improvements in the property market pushed last time's \$5.8 million loss at Hambros Countrywide into a \$10.5 million profit. The trickle-down effect of greater mortgage and other financial product sales saw Hambros Insurance Services improve \$1.5 million to \$4.3 million. The core investment division, too, boosted profits from \$3.9 million to \$22.9 million. But these upturns masked the continued lacklustre performance of the underlying banking business

which remains the main focus of investor concern. Even though provisions for bad debts have tumbled by £17.6 million to £5.9 million, operating income within the banking division has actually fallen by more than £10 million to £32.5 million. The bank claims that a downturn is inevitable as it is in the process of restructuring its corporate lending book. It is slowly shedding no-frills ("plain-vanilla") in banking (largely) corporate lending and building up clients who want more complicated higher-margin business. Hambros would have been in a stronger position with shareholders if it had increased the dividend rather than maintaining it at 2.5p. And despite Lord Hambro handing over chairmanship to Sir Chips Keswick, there are still questions about the long term management. But with such a lacklustre performance, the market is unlikely to give Hambros the chance to prove that its banking operations have turned around. Sir Chips has failed to convince the City that his hybrid merchant bank-estate agent operation has a viable independent future. Regent Pacific may have opened up the bidding, although it remains to be seen whether it will table a full bid. But there must be plenty of other predators running their sledges over one of the last surviving independent merchant banks in the City.

Hambros



Mis-selling payouts could top £1bn, but thousands of victims face 12-month wait

Action to speed pension redress

Richard Miles

HUNDREDS of thousands of people duped into leaving company pension schemes for a personal pension must wait another 12 months for redress, City watchdogs admitted yesterday. The Securities and Investment Board, the chief financial regulator, announced new measures to speed up the review of mis-sold personal pensions - now in its third year - saying progress had been "unacceptably slow". The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, published figures yesterday which suggest the compensation bill for the scandal may top £1 billion, with payouts averaging just over £2,000. SIB's chairman, Sir Andrew Large, blamed the review's slow progress on the

"unduly elaborate" forms used by insurance companies and financial advisers to identify clients who may have been mis-sold a personal pension. They were so complicated that many occupational schemes were unable to cope with the volume of data. This delayed the reinstatement of former members to their former schemes, the method of redress preferred by SIB. To remove this obstacle, SIB yesterday issued guidance that slashes the number of questions occupational schemes must answer from more than 200 to fewer than eight. Several of the biggest public sector schemes have also agreed to pool information for a "one-stop" library. Mr Large said this and other measures should ensure "a substantial proportion" of the 600,000 victims identified as priority cases, would be offered redress during 1997, but it was impossible to guaran-

tee that all victims would be compensated by the end of the decade. "Investors who were mis-sold personal pensions and suffered loss are entitled to redress, and we are determined that they will get it. All those firms with a sense of responsibility will now be able to carry out most of their case reviews without further delays," he said. As many as 1.5 million people may have been

wrongly advised by unscrupulous insurance salesmen to leave a generous company pension scheme for a personal pension. Many are nurses, teachers, miners and other public sector workers. But figures released by the PIA yesterday show only 5 per cent of 400,000 cases initially identified as a priority have been fully reviewed, even though the misselling scandal was first disclosed three years ago. The PIA statistics reveal that only \$49.9 million has been offered in compensation to 6,227 investors. Of this just £36.3 million has been paid to 3,983 people. Assuming these figures are representative of the full scale of the problem, the life insurance industry could face a total compensation bill of about \$1 billion. The 4,000 firms taking part in the review will be required to dispatch another questionnaire to about 600,000 clients asking for more information.

Work in Progress

Total cases identified	519,179
Priority cases identified	446,030
Number of assessments completed	24,257
Cases where redress has been offered	6,227
Cases where redress has been accepted	3,983
Amount of redress offered	£49.9m
Amount of redress paid (gross)	£36.3m

Eurostar opens up the regions

Keith Harper Transport Editor

EUROSTAR trains are expected to start running to mainland Europe from Manchester and Birmingham next Easter, it was announced yesterday. Eurostar's commercial director, Ian Brooks, said the trains would avoid central London, passing through west London on their way to the Channel tunnel. The Manchester and Birmingham services will be joined by a service on the east coast main line later in the year. Delays on their introduction has been due to adapting

Eurostar trains to existing tracks. The tests are being run by Railtrack and are expected to be completed this year. But the service will not start until the holiday season because Eurostar believes that the bulk of regional take-up will be by the leisure traveller. Senior executives from London and Continental Railways, which operates Eurostar and whose investors include Virgin and National Express, stressed their confidence yesterday that the service would carry more than 10 million passengers annually within two years. This is the figure Eurostar must be achieving consistently before LCR is floated, which the

company hopes will take place in 1998. Separately, Richard Branson's Virgin company yesterday emerged as the preferred bidder for part of British Rail's rapidly disappearing passenger network. The new franchise director, John O'Brien, is prepared to allow Mr Branson to run CrossCountry, a variety of express services, linking a number of cities in England, Scotland and Wales. The hub of the CrossCountry network is Birmingham, with services operating to Manchester, Reading and Bristol. It also operates a number of long-distance through trains from Glasgow

to Bournemouth and from Dundee to Farnborough. The network serves more than 100 stations, and its passenger revenue up to March was £108 million, but it makes substantial losses and will need a large subsidy from the franchise director. This would be Mr Branson's first rail franchise, if the bid succeeds. He has already shown an interest in the newly privatised railway, and narrowly failed to obtain the Gatwick Express franchise. He is also bidding for the important but badly funded west coast main line between London and Glasgow, a project which requires £1 billion of investment.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

PRIVATE Rail had its wheels all fired up and ready to roll Monday morning after CBI chief Adair Turner's much-publicised £80 Saturday taxi ride from Newark to the Sunmen's get-together in Harrogate, a journey occasioned by vandal-induced delays to the train upon which he had planned to travel to the Yorkshire spa. True to the ghost of British Rail, the East Coast route's new owners did not offer to pay the CBI director-general's cab fare, but did present him with a complimentary first-class ticket on the very same market-driven London-Harrogate Iron Horse Mr Turner had found so unsatisfactory. A fat lot of use this is: next year's CBI get-together is in Birmingham.

no more than necessary (a banal construction) reminiscent of the exhortation to judges a few years back only to jail in cases where a jail sentence was justified). Furthermore, the ONS tempts small firms with a pledge that, provided they take part in the next survey, they will be left alone for three years. And if they don't?

FROM the front line of the Lord Mayor's show on Sunday, we report that just about every float, from the Halifax's to that of the Civil Aviation Authority, pledged to "make Britain even greater". Splendid news, especially as these promises were backed by the mailed fist of recondite City TA units with long names (London Tropical Warfare Rgt, Royal Field Corps). Best float: London Transport (a whole Tube train). Biggest cheer: the ex-servicemen. Out-of-Town champs: Hastings Economic Development Co. PS Did HM Customs have to parade brandishing a huge banner carrying the anti-smuggling hotline number?

ASIF Ali Zardari, Benazir Bhutto's huddle, has set a new standard in the numerology of no-

menclature. Japan's rogue copper trader Yasuo Hamanaka was "Mr 5 Per Cent". Just about everybody in sport and show business is "Mr 10 Per Cent", and Rentokil chief Sir Clive Thompson made it to "Mr 20 Per Cent". But, at "Mr 30 Per Cent", Mr Zardari has to be world champion. However briefly.

AN INTRIGUING piece of history: Crest, the share-settlement system, was unveiled in 1993 by Bank of England director Pen Kent. And Crest stood for? Nothing, he replied: it was merely an "encouraging, upbeat"



name. Inquiries disclose, however, that Crest was once CREST: Computerised Registration of Equities and Settlement Technology. No doubt the Bank decided acronyms had had their day with the ill-fated TAUBUS.

BURTON, heady with the success (?) of its trendy billboard adverts, is going on-line with its own Internet site. At least, it is trying to. Invitations to the launch were requested to ESFV either the old-fashioned way, by post, or by E-mail. Alas, attempts to reach Burton over the Net produced the response: "cannot deliver".

CATER Allen Deal, the telephone stockbroker, has had to rethink its popular offer to frame the certificates of football-club shares. The firm had worked out the price without taking into account the high moon of Preston North End back in the days of good Queen Vic and the concomitant enormous size (more than 2ft long) of the club's vintage paper. It took just one such certificate to squeeze through the letterbox for a revised price list to be published.

We are accelerating Greece into the 21st century.

OSE (The Hellenic Railways Organization) conceived the Greek Railway Network of the future and is now rapidly accelerating it into reality.

Major development works of tunnels carved through mountains, bridges spanning over rivers and ravines have already been completed, opening up straight and fast tracks to allow their new generation of Intercity trains to speed from city to city in the comfort and safety that the 21st century passenger demands.

All this used to be OSE's dream, but now it's become reality, with the major investment programme of over 235 billion drs.

The modernization works of the Hellenic Railways Organization are financed by the European Union and National participation.

Racing

Gifford at the double

Chris Hawkins

JOSH GIFFORD has been through the mill and was playing things down when Mandys Mantino extended his unbeaten run over hurdles to five at Newbury yesterday.

Gifford knows there is usually something nifty waiting round the corner in racing, and even getting round the bend can prove too much for some — as Danjing proved when leading Mandys Mantino and company in the Tom Mason Trophy.

Danjing was in front at the paddock turn but, spotting the way out to the stables, decided he fancied a lie down rather than submerge himself round again, and promptly ducked-out, depositing Jamie Osborne.

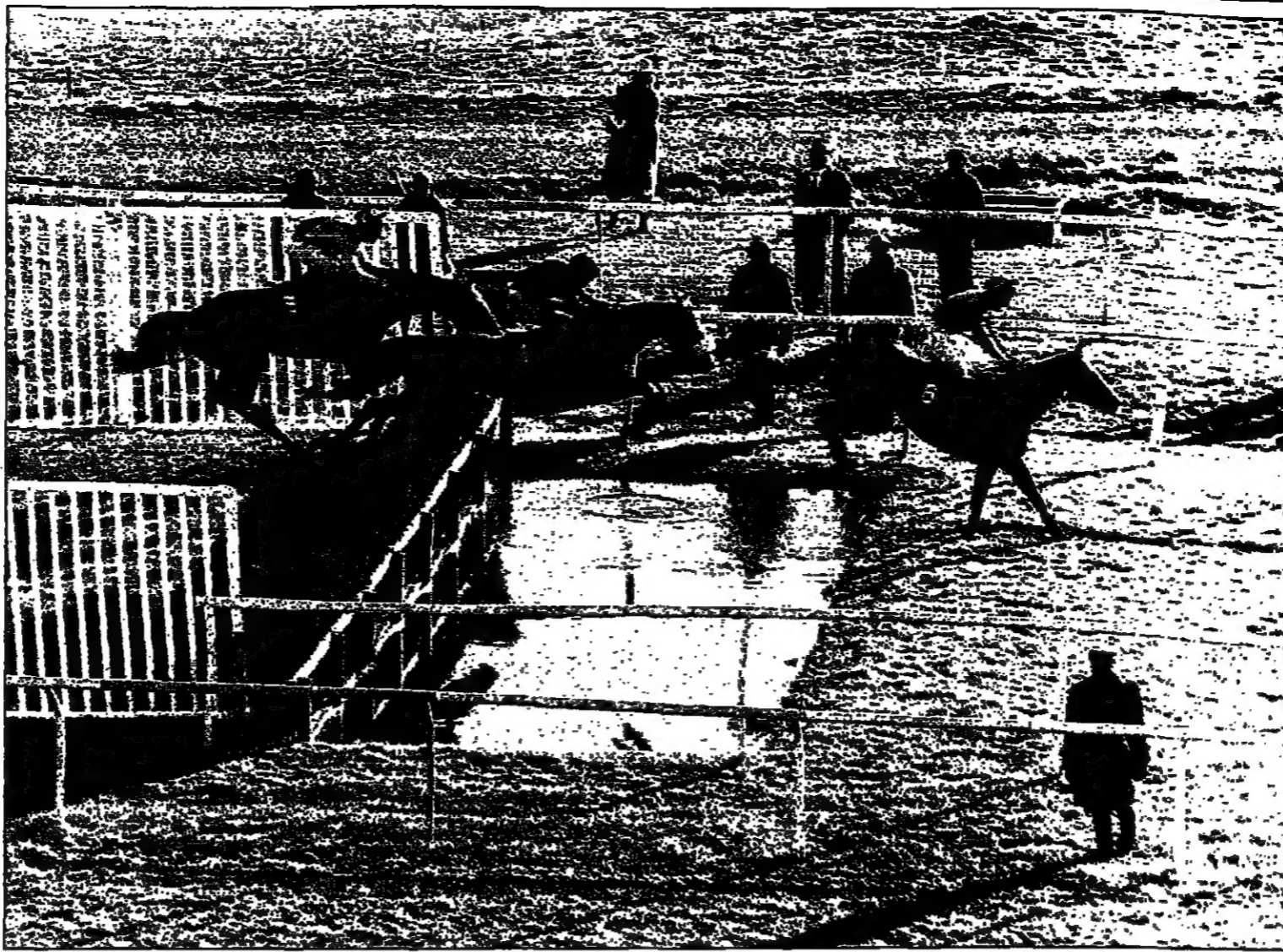
“He’s not an easy horse and I decided to take note of the omens,” said Knight who was not fazed by the stallions.

Gifford and Hide had a double when Redemourne won the Halloween Novice Chase on his first attempt over fences.

“He’s been very careful in schooling at home, but then the ones that take care often turn out to be the best,” said Gifford. “I’ll give him another run, and if all goes well he could go for the Feltham Novice Chase at Kempton over Christmas.”

Oliver Sherwood believes he has a fine hand of young horses this season and thinks a great deal of Aerion who trotted up in the opening EBF National Hunt Novice Hurdle.

“He goes so well at home that I was worried he might be a morning glory,” said Sherwood. “He thinks he’s King Kong.”



Swift and sure... Goldenwill leads rivals over the water jump on her way to victory at Newbury yesterday

Pleasure makes the Grade

Ken Oliver

PLEASURE SHARED, a smart staying hurdler, made an impressive start to his racing career when landing the Grade Two Novice Chase at Worcester yesterday.

Despite belly-flopping after the first fence, Philip Hobbs's eight-year-old son got his act together.

Chris Maude sent him to the front three out and he ran on gamely to beat Around The Gate by a neck.

“He was a couple of weeks away from a run and he’d blown up after the second last, so the reported Hobbs, who bought the gelding out of Kim Bailey’s yard for 10,000 guineas.

“He schooled adequately over fences at home and Chris said he slipped on landing at the first but overall he’s jumped well,” added the trainer.

Hobbs reckoned he has no time plan for the winner but the Feltham Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day could fit into his agenda, while the long term target will be the South Alliance Chase at Cheltenham.

“He was the highest rated novice and staying hurdler last season and we might have gone back to hurdles after today, but he’s eight years old if he was ever going to jump a fence it had to be this season,” said Hobbs.

Tony McCoy completed a 64-1 treble on Teinein, Cherryn and Indrapura an needs only 11 winners to beat Peter Scudamore’s record for the fastest century which was recorded on December 20.

Teinein took the Plumb Center Handicap Hurdle from Mouse Bird but Tim Foster, the 11-day-old trainer, may delay the winner’s debut over fences in order to take in another hurdle as the five-year-old appears well handicapped.

Rosencrantz looks one for the Record

IN THE equine world, as in the realms of human endeavour, a regal pedigree can often be a hindrance and this is certainly so in jumping where the emphasis is on character rather than bloodlines, writes Chris Hawkins.

Like many silver-spurred individuals he did not come up to expectations, however, for which he paid the ultimate penalty with a gelding operation and a transfer to the more plebeian pastures of Venetia Williams’s jumping yard in Herefordshire.

It seems to suit Rosencrantz and in three runs over hurdles he has won twice, scoring at Wincanton on his reappearance last month when he had to hold El Don by a short-head.

As El Don won next time out at Wetherby, the form looks useful and Rosencrantz is napped to follow-up in modest company this afternoon, although I admit a market move for Martin Pipe’s debutant Questan would be worrying.

David Nicholson has made a fine start to the season and looks likely to land a double here with Rolfe (2.50) and Potter’s Gale (3.20).

Towcester programme with guide to the form

Table of racing results for Towcester, including race numbers, names of horses, and jockeys.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card

Table of racing results for Lingfield on an all-weather track, including race numbers and horse names.

Taunton runners and riders

Table listing the runners and riders for Taunton, including race numbers, horse names, and jockey names.

Results

Table of racing results from various tracks, including race numbers, horse names, and jockey names.

Winburn walk

WALTER SWINBURN is planning a charity walk next year. He aims to raise money by walking across Ireland in January. Children and leukaemia charities will benefit from the walk.

RACELINE

A promotional advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring a phone number (0930 1684) and a list of racing-related numbers.

Soccer

Coca-Cola Cup, third-round replays
Coventry City 0, Gillingham 1

Gillingham forge upset with Smith

Trevor Haylett

GORDON Strachan had to endure an introduction to management last night that only Coventry's worst enemies could have devised. Neil Smith's late goal gave Gillingham a deserved victory that puts the Second Division side into the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup for the first time in 33 years and only the second in the competition's history.

Coventry opened at a pace that spelled out "new manager, must impress". Noel Whelan, who had taken a right-hander from Dion Dublin and later a rebuke for alleged drink-driving in the aftermath of the party, broke Ron Atkinson's move upstairs, was especially eager to impress.

Liverpool 4, Charlton Athletic 1

McManaman is space master

Ian Ross

WITH a minimum of fuss Liverpool moved forward last night into the last 16 of the League Cup where, predictably, a far greater challenge awaited. Having brushed aside Charlton Athletic they will now contest a place in the quarter-finals with Arsenal at Anfield in a fortnight's time.

But Charlton never looked likely to draw inspiration from this moment of enterprise. Instead, McManaman continued his single-handed demolition of the Charlton rearguard and, three minutes into the second half, he engineered Liverpool's third goal. His low cross from the right was grabbed home by Fowler. Again it was a mischievous shot, again it found the bottom corner.

First Division: Manchester C 2, Oxford 3

Elliott and Dibble's double trouble ruins Neal's debut

Paul Fitzpatrick

PHIL NEAL'S Maine Road managerial career got off to a wretched start last night as Oxford snatched only their second away win of the season when the big central defender Matt Elliott headed home three minutes from time.

The City goalkeeper dithered when Beuchamp hit a speculative seventh-minute cross from the right and the ball skidded into the far corner of the net without a City man getting near it.

deliveries. Too often their high crosses dropped on Gillingham heads.

An Eoin Jess volley which drew a one-handed save from Jim Stannard was the closest the Premiership side came to scoring for a long period, but Gillingham kept busy. A testing low shot from Craig Armstrong and a bustling run from Iffy Onuora maintained the impression that could spring an upset.

Not surprisingly their supporters were making the most noise. The home support roused themselves only to acknowledge a mistake and there were several of those as Coventry possession was discarded in the face of the Gills' defensive discipline.

Richard Shaw advanced to join the Coventry attack and embarrassed his forwards by forcing Stannard to extend his considerable bulk hastily to the left to divert the ball for a corner, which came to nothing.

He started supporting his team because, most importantly, they were his local club and then, second, because he was influenced by family. (In London and the North-west these are ranked the other way round.) He rates his club as "very important" in his life.

He feels that the atmosphere in grounds is either as lively as ever or not as lively but all right. He wants an area of non-reserved seating set aside in his ground for fans who want to sing and chant.

He is happy with the level of comfort at home games, feeling safer in seats than on terraces. He has not once felt unsafe inside or outside a Premiership ground this season.

Mr Average is sure that hooliganism has decreased over the past five years (81.5 per cent felt this for home games; 54.9 per cent for away games) and generally feels that hooliganism is "no real problem" at home games and "no real problem" or "a problem, but not serious" at away games.

His major gripe with other fans is when they stand on seats, obstructing his view. Bad language is also an irritant. He is "generally satisfied" with the standard of policing at matches (62 per cent felt this for home games; 50.3 per cent for away games) and with the stewarding (68.5 per cent home, 60.3 per cent away).

He is likely to hear the most racist chants at Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United. If he is a Manchester United season-ticket holder he will think there is too much emphasis on business activities at his club.

The results of the third FA Premier League survey of fans, covering the 1995-96 season, were published yesterday. The survey, which was carried out by the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research at the University of Leicester, sent 2,000 questionnaires to season-ticket holders at each Premiership club and 1,000 to non-season-ticket holders. Martin Thorpe analyses the more than 20,000 responses

An average supporter

Loyal, local, male, married and happy in the Premiership comfort zone

HE IS a white European (98.9 per cent), aged between 31 and 40, married or with a partner, in full-time employment and born within 20 miles of the club he supports.

He did not attend university, or polytechnic, goes to all home matches but only between one and five away, and travels to games in a car (64 per cent). And yes, the average fan is a he; 82.2 per cent of fans are male.

He owns a season-ticket (60 per cent) for which he pays an average £261 (non-season-ticket holders pay an average £15.11 per game). He has been going to games for over 11 years, has supported a single club for over 30 years and saw his club's first game aged 10 or under with his parents.

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Your survey says

Table with 3 columns: Passion, Fidelity, Education. Rows list various clubs and fan statistics.



He does not think that the quality of British football is being compared with Europe and believes the best way to get the sport can improve the general quality of play is to focus more on developing skills and then, in descending order, reorganise junior coaching and playing, change the style of play in England, and reduce the number of matches.

McFarland is back to lead Cambridge

Russell Thomas ROY MCFARLAND has passed an intensive Cambridge United examination and was installed yesterday as the man to lead the Third Division club to promotion.

McFarland, who also managed Derby (twice) and Bradford City, emerged from a pack of 36 applicants, reduced to three interviewed on Tuesday.

Southend's manager Ronnie Whelan, 35, has given up playing because of a serious knee injury.

Whelan, who won every domestic honour after joining Liverpool in 1979, played 396 League games, including 36 for Southend.

Results

COCA-COLA CUP Third-round replays Arsenal 1-0 (Penalty) 33.52

NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division Bolton 0-1 17.03

FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division Bolton 0-1 17.03

FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division Bolton 0-1 17.03

FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division Bolton 0-1 17.03

FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division Bolton 0-1 17.03

Pet hates, top draws

Bolton's Lofty the Lion is the most-liked mascot; Nottingham Forest's squirrel Robin Hood the least-liked.

Most fans dislike troupes of dancing girls at half-time.

Blackburn fans registered the lowest recognition of the Kick Racism Out of Football campaign.

Manchester United and Wimbledon fans are close to the top of the tables for higher education and salary.

Coventry top the table of fans who hate the way their club present their home matches, and are third in the table of those who love the presentation.

Leeds fans think the atmosphere at their ground has deteriorated the most.

Tottenham's average match-ticket price (£19.10) was the highest in the Premiership last season; QPR's, at £11.14, was the lowest.

Chelsea's average season-ticket price (£385) was the highest last season; Wimbledon's (£126) the lowest.

Of season-ticket holders who describe their club as less important than five years ago the most numerous, by far, were Leeds United fans.

More Wimbledon fans than any others had supported another team previously. Wimbledon have recruited new fans more than any other club.

Coventry and West Ham have the lowest number of season-ticket holders who went to university or polytechnic.

experiment with video aids for referees, thinks too many red and yellow cards are issued (76.3 per cent feel this) and does not believe that the increase in cards has protected fair play (66.9 per cent).

The "average" above refers to the most widely held view in response to each question.

Tommy Burns, 37, has been fined £500 by the FA for comments to the referee Martin Bodenham after the draw with Wimbledon in September that put Portsmouth out of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Rangers in rare hunting role as Celtic aim to stand firm

Patrick Glenn CELTIC, transformed 18 months ago from predator to prey, have to adapt instantly to their new role if they are to remain at the top of the Premier Division.

Celtic have spent so long chasing their rivals, who have won the past eight championships, that their ability to see them off as challengers has not been tested.

But Tommy Burns' team are in better shape than the Saturday before last, when their victory over Aberdeen, while Rangers were drawing at Raith Rovers, took them to the top.

"This game has been more hyped than the last," he added. "If we're still close, the next will be even worse and this is hardly an occasion for gaining match practice."

Rangers' manager Walter Smith says he has no intention of conceding to Celtic.



# SportsGuardian

## Emerson return deadline expires today

Ian Ross and John Wardle

MIDDLESBROUGH'S patience with their Brazilian midfielder Emerson will run out at 10 this morning. That is the deadline the club's chairman Steve Gibson has set for the 24-year-old absentee to return from his extended holiday in Brazil.

Last night the club threatened to "throw the book" at Emerson if he fails to return today.

The measures proposed include immediately freezing his £20,000-a-week salary and suing him for breach of contract to recoup much of the £4 million he cost from the Portuguese club Porto less than six months ago. Middlesbrough would also seek legal support to prevent him playing football anywhere in the world for the remaining 3½ years of his contract.

Emerson flew home to Rio de Janeiro "on a short break" with his girlfriend Andrea last week. They went with the club's blessing because he was serving a three-match suspension and England's World Cup qualifier in Georgia had left Middlesbrough with no game that weekend.

On arrival in Brazil, however, Emerson was reported to have said that neither he nor Andrea could settle in Teesside and they did not plan to return.

The club's manager Bryan Robson dismissed this report, saying: "Emerson will not be leaving the club. In fact no one is leaving unless I decide it is in our best interests. I have the full backing of the chairman over this."

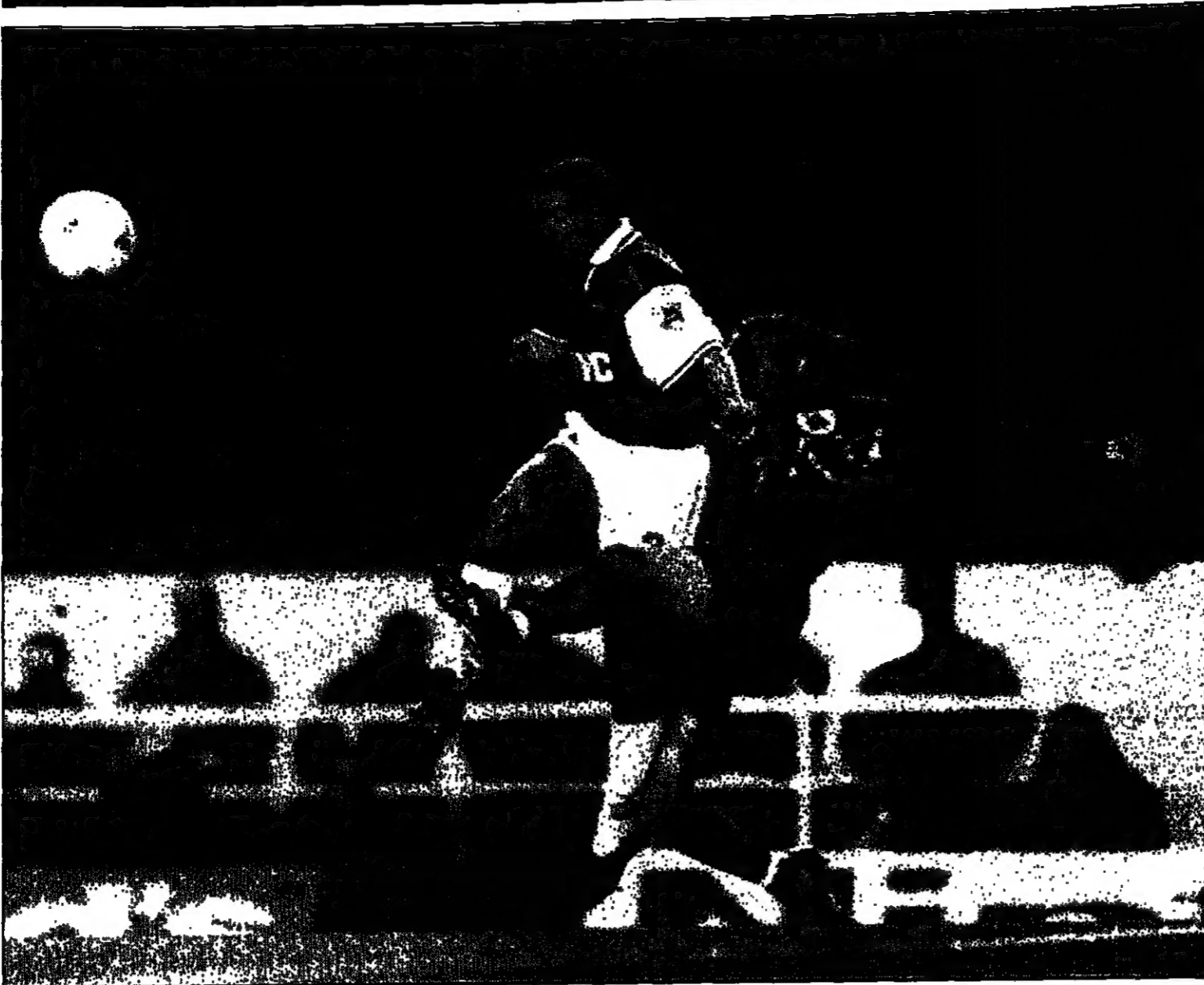
Barcelona, coached by the former England manager Bobby Robson, were mentioned as showing interest in the player, but Bryan Robson discounted the rumour.

"I know Bobby well from our England days; he is not the type to go behind my back," said the Middlesbrough manager. "He has not contacted me from Barcelona or left messages. If Bobby wanted one of my players he would contact me direct."

Speculation that Emerson was planning to return to Continental football was revived last night, however, when his manager-agent Da Silva Vega confirmed that he would be having meetings in Italy this week and would not return to his Lisbon office until tomorrow.

Emerson's representative in England, Gianni Paladini, continues to insist that his client will return to Teesside today.

## COCA-COLA CUP



Taking wing... Stoke's Ged McMahon puts the Arsenal left-back Nigel Winterburn under pressure at Highbury last night

Third-round replay: Arsenal 5, Stoke City 2

# Wright puts out Stoke fire

Martin Thorpe

ARSENAL came back from a goal down to demolish Stoke City's cup challenge last night. Ian Wright revelled in his rich vein of form by scoring twice to help set up a fourth-round tie with Liverpool, the only side to have beaten the Gunners in the league this season.

This game prefaced a difficult series of league encounters for Arsenal, the results of which will offer a pointer towards the title-winning credentials of the team lying second in the Premiership.

On Saturday they travel to Manchester United, then comes a home North London derby against Tottenham followed by a visit to Newcastle.

The fact that last night's tie against the First Division visitors followed an international week in which many of the Arsenal players featured, illustrated the non-stop pressure on top players to perform at every level.

Any side managed by Lou Macari is capable of setting a

stern test, as witnessed by the 1-1 draw at Stoke in October that prompted this replay. This was proved after 34 minutes when they took the lead. Bould's pass to Merson was intercepted by Kavanagh in the visitors' half and Stoke broke forward at speed. Kavanagh played a one-two with Sherson, and here there was a touch of fortune.

Kavanagh, on the right, passed through to Sherson again, but the ball was slightly diverted by Vieira's outstretched leg which was attempting to cut it out. Instead it deflected past the covering Winterburn and fell perfectly into the path of Sherson who slotted home his 13th goal of the season.

Stoke had already gone close twice, once when a Seaman clearance ricocheted off Sherson and Adams was relieved to clear in front of an open goal. Later another Stoke break set Wallace free on the right but instead of shooting he passed across goal and the ball was cleared for a corner by Dixon.

Three minutes before the break Arsenal equalised.

Vieira pushed a ball through to Bergkamp in the area and as he tried to turn Devlin he tumbled to the ground. The referee gave the penalty which Wright converted for his 14th goal of the season.

No sooner had Arsenal come out for the second half than they scored again. Keown in midfield played a ball out right to Wright which enabled the striker to get behind the covering defenders.



Sherson... first off mark

Haring for the by-line he hooked over a cross which still eluded the outstretched arms of Muggleton on the near post and sailed invitingly across goal. There, running in, was Platt who nudged the ball over the line with his chest. Ballydoo completed the England midfielder celebrated only his second goal of the season.

That was after just one minute and 10 seconds of the new half. But Stoke came back well from this undermining of their half-time team-talk. On 49 minutes Kavanagh struck a searing free-kick through a crowd of players and Seaman could only parry the ball. Unfortunately for Stoke, no one was there to take advantage of the rebound.

After 74 minutes Arsenal scored their third. Muggleton fumbled Bergkamp's up-and-under for a corner which the Dutchman swung in over the covering defenders and into the path of the unmarked Wright. The diving striker headed in easily.

Arsenal were rampant now and four minutes later Wright turned provider for Berg-

kamp to set up No. 4. Wright's pass found the latter just outside the area, again given acres of room. Bergkamp advanced and with just a small gap to aim at between Muggleton and his left-hand post, unhesitatingly drilled the ball at the target.

Six minutes later and it was 5-1. Dixon broke through the inside-right position, held off Whittle, pulled the ball back from the by-line and Muggleton got a touch but deflected the ball to Merson who shot home. Sherson added a consolation for Stoke a minute from time, but it was too little too late.

Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon, Bould, Adams, Keown, Winterburn, Merson, Vieira, Platt, Bergkamp, Wright.

Stoke City: Muggleton, Pickering, Simpson, White, Devlin, McLendon, Wallace, Kavanagh, Forsyth, Keen, Sherson.

Referee: G. Willard (Worthing).

## Rest in peace and renown, bright Tommy



Frank Keating

MY grandchildren will be told, with awe and for sure, that their old block was at the ringside in Las Vegas the night Mike Tyson was hit back with a venom which made the world flinch. They will also be told, and if they have any sense they will softly "wow" with even more wonder, that a couple of days later I was asked by Tommy Lawton's son to write an address to be read at his father's funeral in Nottingham. Some honour, some pride.

From the city centre to Bramhope cemetery, the cortege passed outside Meadow Lane, where the Notts County first team stood in touching respect. Exactly 50 football seasons ago Lawton arrived to play there, and for the next three years average gates of 8,500 became 31,000.

Among the hundreds of wreaths there was one of red roses, for Lancashire. Sixty autumns ago, three days after his 17th birthday, the strapping laughter of a lad signed pro for Burnley, and very next day scored a hat-trick against Tottenham at Turf Moor. An all-time great had taken wing. And now he has again.

Twenty years ago, football over and his fame frozen in time if never forgotten, Tom was skint and in despair. He'd had a stroke and a serious stomach operation. "Not one person from 'football' so much as paid him a visit," said his beloved late wife Gays.

The rent was piling up, he was pursued by the council for rates arrears of £87 and he was perking weathering the ripples from two ludicrously minor but, to him, shaming court cases. "I'd leave home of a morning pretending I had a job, but I'd just sit all day in the library or in Market Square. More than once I thought to end it all, to walk into the Trent."

That interview appeared as this column. We became friends. He was an inveterate letter-writer: big, bold, flowingly neat hand. Barry Williams, editor of the local Evening Post, who spoke with moving warmth at the crematorium yesterday, gave him a weekly slot.

Tom was good at it too, never an "In my day..." man.

He then wrote his memoirs, bright with recall and funny. What tales. I hawked them round the London publishers for him. Not one as much as asked him down for lunch. Most of them, pink-shirted prats, had never heard of him. He had it all, they say. On the ground and in the air. When ageing sages told him there had never been a finer in the air, not even his loved mentor Dixie Dean. Tom would smile wide, make a little grimace and say: "I didn't think I was too bad on the deck as well."

Even in utter modesty, he never denied the wonder of his gifts.

I saw him play only once. Well, sort of. *Latish 1960* was a club "wanderer" of the League United went to Kettering where Lawton was out to grass as player-manager.

Even before kick-off, awe-struck, I'd got the picture, and years later the precise frisson of recall was conjured by John Moynihan in his classic memoir of a west London schoolboy idolising The Hero at Stamford Bridge in his pump.

"Lawton would stand there during the kick-about with his hands on his hips," Moynihan wrote, "occasionally volleying a practice ball languidly into the roof of the net, all grace and freedom, a look of complete unconcern on his face..."

A FEW weeks ago I watched Newcastle's 5-0 beating of the champions with an old man who had seen Lawton's prime time. The most memorable thunderclap that afternoon was when Shearer, with no backlift and all of 25 yards out on the angle, suddenly let rip and laced the thing against Schmeichel's right post before the great goalkeeper could say "Frank Swish!"

The dramatic, daring (un-essence and sheer oomph) of that moment was not to be replayed nor reported because of the upcoming haul of goals. But I was out of my seat as the fulfilment she left the upright twanging and rebounded away.

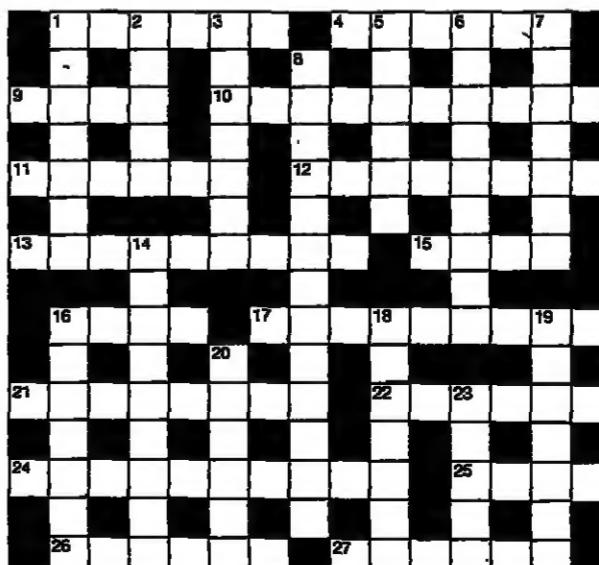
Great, said my friend, "but a Lawton shot like that would have been just inside the post, that's the difference."

Yesterday on Lawton's coffin lay his 12th tasselled England cap, won half a century ago this month against Holland. He scored four that day. Twenty years ago he had sold the cap for a pittance. A collector was privileged to loan it back.

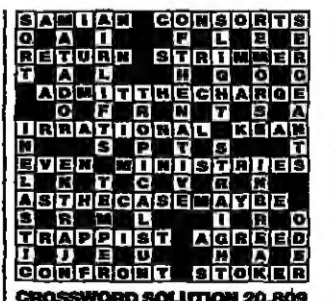
Going into the chapel they played You'll Never Walk Alone; coming out, it was My Way.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,810

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- Dolly is a model (6)
  - Makes a pretence a reality? (6)
  - Recommended course for Parliament (4)
  - American beggar—a kitchenworker? (10)
  - Fresh air—and that's essential for a man (6)
  - A fetching breed of dog (6)
  - Accommodation for Eastern males in temporary dwellings (9)
  - A key, it is needed for opening (4)
  - Classical maid who always had the last word (4)
  - Developed idea drawn from a bygone era (9)
  - One in charge of a spinning wheel (8)
  - Field the ball (6)
  - Who cares, for example, about such questions? (10)
  - Board of trade (4)
  - Mary and Elizabeth, for example, from Stroud (6)
  - Make merry, take in a show (5)
- Down**
- No doubt many yarns have been spun about it (7)
  - All for musicians (5)
  - A stretch of river accommodating some vessels (7)
  - To hush an upset baby is rather mean (6)
  - Obviously guilty, with a fistful of diamonds? (3-6)
  - Lengthen your strides if a stair-tread is missing (4,3)
  - Blown up charge (8,5)
  - He used tax form that's expired (9)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,809

- You won't hear a sound out of it (7)
  - Pardon sailor's love affair (7)
  - High-flown writings (3,4)
  - Glass-paper? (6)
  - Sit on the fence, or something similar (5)
- Solution tomorrow**
- Back? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 338. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-9pm, and 45p per minute at other times. Service supplied by ATS

# GRRREAT EXPECTATIONS



GRRRAHAM'S PORT

Just roll it round your tongue.



صوتك من الاجل

Why are these people smiling apart from him who never do it because they're they're they're never had

Zain

Chris Mc... and Martin W... in Washington

Insid